



U.S. Department of Justice
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NEWS RELEASE

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April 2, 2004

TWO FROM WICHITA, KANSAS, CHARGED WITH ROBBERY OF THE COMMERCE BANK IN GARDEN CITY

WICHITA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **John R. Harms**, 42, and **Tywana K. Harms**, 37, husband and wife, both of Wichita, Kansas, were charged today with one count of bank robbery.

Melgren said that John and Tywana Harms were arrested on March 31, 2004, in Wichita, Kansas, and made their initial appearance this morning before U.S. Magistrate Judge Karen M. Humphreys in U.S. District Court in Wichita, Kansas. John and Tywana Harms were temporarily detained and are scheduled for a detention hearing on April 7, 2004, at 9:30 a.m.

A complaint filed with the Court alleges that on March 30, 2004, John Harms entered the Commerce Bank, 512 N. 7th, Garden City, Kansas, dressed in women's clothing, pointed a handgun at the tellers and demanded money. The complaint alleges that the tellers complied with Harms demands and Harms left the bank with an undisclosed amount of cash. The complaint further alleges that Harms was seen getting into a silver car being driven by Tywana Harms, and being driven away. During the investigation, the Garden City Police Department determined that the Harms had been in Garden City and were driving a silver car rented in Wichita. The Garden City Police Department contacted the Wichita Police Department and provided information about the robbery of the Commerce Bank. The complaint alleges that John and Tywana Harms were stopped for a traffic violation in a silver car on March 31, 2004, by the Wichita Police Department and officers found a money wrapper from Commerce Bank and a pile of cash on the floor of the car.

If convicted, each face a maximum of twenty years in federal prison without parole.

The case was investigated by the Garden City Police Department, the Wichita Police Department, and the FBI and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Alan Metzger. As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The charges filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.